

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1306

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: LICENCIADO VICTOR FLORES OLEA, NEW MEXICAN
AMBASSADOR TO USSR.

1. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS NAMED LICENCIADO VICTOR FLORES OLEA, DIRECTOR OF THE FACULTY FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AT THE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY (UNAM) OF MEXICO, AS NEW AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FLORES OLEA WAS BORN IN TOLUCA, STATE OF MEXICO, IN 1932. HE OBTAINED HIS DEGREE IN LAW AT THE UNAM AND DID POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME AND AT THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL STUDIES OF PARIS.

3. SINCE 1959 HE HAS BEEN A PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY AT THE FACULTY FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES OF THE UNAM; AND FROM 1970 TO DATE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF THE SAME FACULTY.

4. FLORES OLEA IS A WELL-KNOWN MARXIST INTELLECTUAL AND JOURNALIST. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF POLITICA Y DIALECTICA (POLITICS AND DIALECTICS), MARXISMO Y DEMOCRACIA SOCIALISTA (MARXISM AND SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY) AND SOCIALISMO Y POLITICA DE AMERICA LATINA (SOCIALISM AND POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA). IN FEBRUARY 1972 HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN A MEMBER SINCE
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1959 OF SEVERAL COMMUNIST AND/OR COMMUNIST FRONT

ORGANIZATIONS; AND WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES INCLUDING CUBA.

5. COMMENT: AS RECENTLY AS THREE YEARS AGO FLORES WAS DECLARING THAT THE PRI (OFFICIAL RULING PARTY) WAS THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO THE FULFILLMENT OF MEXICO'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL NEEDS, AND THAT THE PROGRESSIVE IDEALS OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION HAD BEEN BETRAYED TO THE CAPITALISTIC CLASS. IT IS A MEASURE OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S SUCCESS IN COURTING THE LEFT THAT FLORES WILL NOW REPRESENT THE GOM IN THE USSR.

A PROFESSOR OF THE FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS POLITICAS, OF WHICH FLORES OLEA WAS DIRECTOR, COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR WAS INTENDED TO INDICATE INCREASED IMPORTANCE TO MEXICAN-USSR RELATIONS, BECAUSE OF HIS REPUTATION - UNDESERVED, HE THOUGHT - AS A MARXIST INTELLECTUAL. IN REALITY, HE SAID, FO IS NEITHER AN INTELLECTUAL - HE USES HIS POSITION TO GET HIS NAME ON OTHERS' WORKS - NOR A MARXIST, THROUGH HE DOES NOTHING TO DISCOURAGE THAT IMPRESSION. ROQUE GONZALEZ, HE ADDED (WHOM FO REPLACES AS AMBASSADOR), WILL RECIEVE A VERY HIGH GOM POSITION, FURTHER CONTRIBUTING TO THIS UPGRADING OF RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. JOVA

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